



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 537

LCO No. 3863

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR
CERTIFICATION AND AN EXTENSION PERIOD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (l) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (l) (1) For certified employees of local and regional boards of
4 education, except as provided in this subdivision and subdivision (4)
5 of this subsection, each professional educator certificate shall be valid
6 for five years and continued every five years thereafter upon the
7 successful completion of professional development activities which
8 shall consist of not less than ninety hours of continuing education, as
9 determined by the local or regional board of education in accordance
10 with this section, during each successive five-year period. (A) Such
11 continuing education completed by certified employees with an early
12 childhood nursery through grade three or an elementary endorsement
13 who hold a position requiring such an endorsement shall include at
14 least fifteen hours of training in the teaching of reading and reading
15 readiness and assessment of reading performance, including methods
16 of teaching language skills necessary for reading, reading

17 comprehension skills, phonics and the structure of the English
18 language during each five-year period. (B) Such continuing education
19 requirement completed by certified employees with elementary or
20 middle grades endorsements who hold a position requiring such an
21 endorsement shall include at least fifteen hours of training in the use of
22 computers in the classroom during each five-year period. (C) Such
23 continuing education completed by (i) the superintendent of schools,
24 and (ii) employees employed in positions requiring an intermediate
25 administrator or supervisory certificate, or the equivalent thereof, and
26 whose administrative or supervisory duties equal at least fifty per cent
27 of the assigned time of such employee, shall include at least fifteen
28 hours of training in the evaluation of teachers pursuant to section 10-
29 151b during each five-year period. (D) In the case of certified
30 employees with a bilingual education endorsement who hold positions
31 requiring such an endorsement (i) in an elementary school and who do
32 not hold an endorsement in elementary education, such continuing
33 education taken on or after July 1, 1999, shall only count toward the
34 ninety-hour requirement if it is in language arts, reading and
35 mathematics, and (ii) in a middle or secondary school and who do not
36 hold an endorsement in the subject area they teach, such continuing
37 education taken on or after July 1, 1999, shall only count toward the
38 ninety-hour requirement if it is in such subject area or areas. During
39 each five-year period in which a professional educator certificate is
40 valid, a holder of such certificate who has not completed the ninety
41 hours of continuing education required pursuant to this subdivision,
42 and who has not been employed while holding such certificate by a
43 local or regional board of education for all or part of the five-year
44 period, shall, upon application, be reissued such certificate for five
45 years minus any period of time such holder was employed while
46 holding such certificate by a local or regional board of education,
47 provided there shall be only one such reissuance during each five-year
48 period in which such certificate is valid. A certified employee of a local
49 or regional board of education who is a member of the General
50 Assembly and who has not completed the ninety hours of continuing

51 education required pursuant to this subdivision for continuation of
52 [his] a certificate, upon application, shall be reissued a professional
53 educator certificate for a period of time equal to six months for each
54 year [he] such employee served in the General Assembly during the
55 previous five years. Continuing education hours completed during the
56 previous five years shall be applied toward such ninety-hour
57 requirement which shall be completed during the reissuance period in
58 order for such employee to be eligible to have his or her certificate
59 continued. The cost of the professional development activities required
60 under this subsection for certified employees of local or regional
61 boards of education shall be shared by the state and local or regional
62 boards of education, except for those activities identified by the State
63 Board of Education as the responsibility of the certificate holder. Each
64 local and regional board of education shall make available, annually, at
65 no cost to its certified employees not fewer than eighteen hours of
66 professional development activities for continuing education credit.
67 Such activities may be made available by a board of education directly,
68 through a regional educational service center or cooperative
69 arrangement with another board of education or through
70 arrangements with any continuing education provider approved by
71 the State Board of Education. Local and regional boards of education
72 shall grant continuing education credit for professional development
73 activities which the certified employees of the board of education are
74 required to attend, professional development activities offered in
75 accordance with the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b) of
76 section 10-220a, or professional development activities which the
77 board may approve for any individual certified employee. Each board
78 of education shall determine the specific professional development
79 activities to be made available with the advice and assistance of the
80 teachers employed by such board, including representatives of the
81 exclusive bargaining unit for such teachers pursuant to section 10-
82 153b. The time and location for the provision of such activities shall be
83 in accordance with either an agreement between the board of
84 education and the exclusive bargaining unit pursuant to said section

85 10-153b or, in the absence of such agreement or to the extent such
86 agreement does not provide for the time and location of all such
87 activities, in accordance with a determination by the board of
88 education.

89 (2) Each local and regional board of education shall attest to the
90 state Department of Education, in such form and at such time as the
91 commissioner shall prescribe, that professional development activities
92 for which continuing education credit is granted by the board: (A) Are
93 planned in response to identified needs, (B) are provided by qualified
94 instructional personnel, as appropriate, (C) have the requirements for
95 participation in the activity shared with participants before the
96 commencement of the activity, (D) are evaluated in terms of its
97 effectiveness and its contribution to the attainment of school or
98 district-wide goals, and (E) are documented in accordance with
99 procedures established by the State Board of Education. At the end of
100 each five-year period each professional educator shall attest to the state
101 Department of Education, in such form and at such time as the
102 commissioner shall prescribe, that the professional educator has
103 successfully completed ninety hours of continuing education.

104 (3) In the event that the state Department of Education notifies the
105 local or regional board of education that the provisions of subdivision
106 (2) of this subsection have not been met and that specific corrective
107 action is necessary, the local or regional board of education shall take
108 such corrective action immediately. The department shall not
109 invalidate continuing education credit awarded prior to such notice.

110 (4) A person holding a professional educator certificate may extend
111 the time such certificate is valid by ____ years upon application to the
112 Department of Education and payment of a fee of ____ dollars.
113 During the extension period, such person shall complete the
114 continuing education hours required pursuant to subdivision (1) of
115 this subsection that such person failed to complete during the previous
116 five-year period.

117 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for a short term extension of teacher and administrator certificates in order to alleviate the teacher and administrator shortage.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. MCKINNEY, 28th Dist.